

Public Service Pensioners' Council

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To: Secretaries of Constituent Organisations

10 November 2011

Dear Colleagues

CAMPAIGNING ON PUBLIC SECTOR PENSIONS - UPDATE

Legal Challenge to CPI Indexation

You will be aware that the Judicial Review of the Government's decision to switch the basis of indexation for public sector pension schemes was heard at the High Court on 25-27 October. This action garnered much publicity, and enabled the arguments against CPI to be given a full public airing. The outcome of the Judicial Review is expected before Christmas.

The PSPC does not think it likely that the Government will concede RPI indexation for the future even if the legal action is successful. Indeed, there are rumours that the Chancellor of the Exchequer is considering not paying even the September CPI increase, which at 5.2 per cent was only slightly below the RPI at 5.6 per cent.

Other Campaigning/E-petition

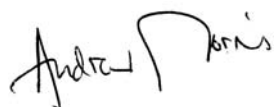
Trade Unions' Action on 30 November

The PSPC supports the public sector unions' campaign to reverse the decision to switch indexation to CPI inflation and to secure decent pensions for existing and former public sector workers. Those PSPC affiliates which are not trade unions are encouraged to provide their members with information relating to activities being undertaken on 30 November which members may wish to join. Information from the TUC will be provided via the website www.pensionsjustice.org.uk.

The PSPC, along with other organisations, is considering another Lobby in Parliament, possibly in early-mid February. This would aim for a repeat of last year's successful event, which tied the Lobby to the timing of the annual indexation Order in Parliament. Another possibility, which could get more publicity for our cause, is the facility for e-petitions to be set up on the directgov website. Petitions that reach 100,000 signatures are eligible for debate in the House of Commons.

There is an e-petition currently open on the subject of the switch from RPI to CPI which currently has over 71,000 signatures. The petition can be found at <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/1535> or <http://tiny.cc/gp8yh> and I urge you to publicise it to your membership if you have not already done so. If 100,000 signatures can be reached before Christmas, we will be in a much stronger position. The obvious step if a debate is scheduled would be to hold the Lobby with it, though this may mean having to set the Lobby date at very short notice.

Yours sincerely



ANDREW MORRIS
General Secretary

General Secretary: ANDREW MORRIS